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THA Solutions Group Staff

James L. Goodloe, FACHE
Senior Vice President

James E. Byrd
Vice President

Wes Reade
*Director of Market
Development*

Vickie Lynn Bilbrey
*Vendor Resources
Coordinator*

Amy Cowles
Executive Assistant

Phone: 800-258-9541
615-256-8240
Fax: 615-248-4836
615-242-4803

We're on the Web!
www.tha.com/thasg.html

HEALTHCARE FACILITIES, LLC

HealthCare Facilities, LLC (HCF) serves as an owner's representative/program manager for healthcare construction projects.

This work entails total management of a project on behalf of the owner. The company provides management and planning expertise.

HealthCare Facilities, LLC, was founded in 1995, and has tremendous experience in additions and renovations to hospital facilities, as well as new construction.

HCF is not an architectural, engineering or contracting firm. However, in order to provide program management, the company provides architectural, engineering, contracting, equipment planning and telecommunications planning and management services.

HCF's senior management team is very experienced. The professionals who direct operations and planning each have over 30 years of experience.

The company's ability to reduce costs and manage complex healthcare pro-

jects comes from this experience. Cost considerations are built into project planning from the very beginning to eliminate over-design and wasted space, minimize change orders and shorten building cycles. This is accomplished without program sacrifices and with an appreciation for aesthetics.

For additional information, contact Dan Olphie, Jack Owenby, Bill Trivett or Jennifer Bryant at 800-342-1371 or 615-221-3990.

M. L. SCHWARTZ & ASSOCIATES

M. L. Schwartz & Associates has been a premier consulting firm since 1977. Today, the major areas of consulting include:

- ◆ Certificate of Need Preparation and Litigation
- ◆ Strategic and Long-Range Planning
- ◆ Facility Planning (Space, Function & Location)
- ◆ Medical Staff Assessment and Surveying
- ◆ Educational Seminars (including Management Assessments)
- ◆ Facilitator at Medical Staff/Board Retreats

Unlike other consulting firms, M. L. Schwartz & Associates has never specialized in nonprofit or for-profit hospitals. His company has found that working with both has increased the firm's understanding of the entire political climate in communities with multiple clients. Clients have included individual hospitals and entire systems. Services have been provided to acute care facilities and other entities such as:

- Psychiatric and substance abuse chains
- National rehabilitation chains

- National congregate living and retirement center chains
- National home health and nursing home chains
- Florida Hospital Association (rule challenges, litigation support and rule promulgation)
- Major Medical Equipment Companies (Cytocare, Toshiba, American Medical & GE)
- Hospice

For more information, contact Michael Schwartz at 813-885-9983.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE: A MARKET WITH UNMET NEEDS

Written by:

Ann M, Boughtin, MS, MPA

Spurred by the parity law, decreasing stigma and increased consumer awareness, many providers and communities are experiencing waiting lists for mental health and substance abuse treatment.

As a result, the provision of hospital-sponsored behavioral health services is a strategy that has attracted renewed consideration in recent years. Inpatient and outpatient behavioral health programs can provide new revenue streams at a time when many hospitals are developing business strategies to meet community needs and improve the bottom line.

There is an enormous unmet need for mental health services. According to the Kellogg Foundation Report on Mental

Illness in America (2001), 28 percent of the population experiences a mental health or substance abuse disorder and 20 percent of children age 9-17 experience a mental or addictive disorder in any given year. While major depression affects 5 percent of the population each year, less than one-third of adults with a mental disorder and about 30 percent of children and adolescents in need of care actually receive treatment.

The demand for acute behavioral health care for both TennCare and non-TennCare populations has continued to rise in recent years. In Tennessee, the number of admissions to the state mental health institutes has increased nearly 50 percent since the inception of the TennCare Partners program, with the increases occurring in

forensic and non-TennCare populations. (2002 report, "TennCare Partners: Behavioral Health Reprocurment Strategies," Richard Dougherty, PhD and Ann Boughtin, MS, MPA.)

Consideration of the business opportunity that mental health services can provide can be enhanced by working with people who understand the economics of behavioral health care, including the pressures of the bottom line. As a new member of THA Solutions Group, Ann Boughtin and Associates can help with needs assessments, environmental scans and program design.

For more information about these services, contact Ann Boughtin at 615-771-0908, aboughtin@comcast.net.

DOC HOLIDAY

The storage and retrieval of documents is a source of aggravation and frustration for healthcare providers, facility managers and hospital administrators.

Doc Holiday offers a prescription for this growing problem: a proactive document management system for the environment of care.

Doc Holiday's goal is to provide an efficient electronic storage and retrieval system for all documents related to the healthcare environment, including patient records, building plans, emergency procedures and other environment-of-care (EOC) applications.

Doc Holiday offers:

EOC Documents

- ◆ Create readily accessible documentation consistent

with the EOC standards set by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

- Train existing staff to maintain records in the paperless format or allow Doc Holiday's EOC specialists to keep them up to date.

Medical Records Management

- Maintain standards for the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) while having records accessible and transferable.
- Eliminate the use of valuable storage space for records archiving.

Electronic Medical Records Transfer

- Establish a convenient and universally accepted platform for physicians to ac-

cess records and collaborate from remote locations.

- Protect patient information and hospital security using digital signatures, 128-bit encryption, and seven levels of security.

Plant Operations

- Maintain Operation & Maintenance manuals and procedures on the desktop, network or Personal Desktop Assistant.
- Render Computer Assisted Design drawings accessible to anyone on the local network.
- Provide format for real-time updates to building manuals, procedures, maintenance and training.

For more information, contact Barry Westbrook at 615-385-3453.